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## FOOD PREVIEW

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A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service

May 12, 1958  
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- MEAT: Total supplies this spring and summer will be a little smaller than high level of this time last year, but marketings of better grade beef will be about same as last year. For year 1958, meat consumption is expected to total about 151 pounds per person, 8 pounds less than last year.
- Beef: Supplies will continue to be smaller than year ago, but reduction will be mostly in lower grades -- supplies of better grades (which reach consumers as fresh cuts of beef) will be about equal to those of last spring and summer. Producers are restocking their herds; this provides for larger supplies in future years, but cuts back current supplies. For 1958, beef consumption is forecast at 78 pounds per person, down nearly 6½ pounds from last year.
- Pork: Supplies have been below 1957, but in coming months will be as large or a little larger than year ago. By midsummer, supplies will be up to last year's level; thereafter, supplies will be larger, because of the larger spring pig crop -- expected to be up 5 to 6 percent. 1958's pork consumption is forecast at 61 pounds per person, almost as large as last year.
- Lamb: Supplies this spring and summer are expected to be down a little from a year earlier, as ranchers build up flocks. But this fall, supplies will at times exceed the relatively small supplies a year ago. For the year, lamb and mutton consumption will be nearly 4 pounds per person, lowest rate since 1951.
- POULTRY: Demand continues strong. More chicken meat will be available this spring and early summer than last, slightly less turkey and fewer eggs.
- Chicken: Supplies of broilers continue to increase: 1957 production was up 8% over 1956. Through first half of 1958, supplies will be larger than last year's by an even greater percentage. But demand for broilers, which increases in warm weather, is also likely to be larger.
- Turkey: Production this year will be smaller than last year's record of 81 million birds raised. Number of poults started for 1958 is down 16%, but for rest of the season, reduction from 1957 is not likely to be so sharp. Storage stocks are large -- April 1 was 5% below year earlier, but one-third larger than any preceding year. Therefore, 1958's consumption is expected to almost equal 1957's record 5.9 pounds per person.
- EGGS: Number of layers is down from last year, and supplies will continue below a year earlier until September or October. After that, flock size is likely to get back up to year-ago levels, as pullets from this spring's hatch come into production. With flock size in year's last quarter about same as year ago, supplies may increase because of an increase in rate of lay. For 1958, egg consumption will be about 348 eggs per person, 3 percent below 1957.



DAIRY  
PRODUCTS:

Supplies this spring and early summer will be a little larger than the record supply a year ago. For 1958, milk production will probably rise to a new record for the sixth successive year. Total output is expected to increase by around 1 billion pounds from the 126.4 billion pounds produced in 1957. Stocks of dairy products at the beginning of 1958 were much larger than a year previous, so the year's total supplies of dairy products will be the largest ever.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh:

At May 1, outlook for supplies was brighter than it has been for several months: production of spring vegetables expected to be close to last year and average, although effects of unfavorable winter and early spring weather still show in delayed harvest, low yields. Increases over last year's production are expected for onions, sweet corn, cucumbers -- almost offset by declines expected for lettuce, cabbage, celery, carrots, broccoli.

Canned:

Supplies are fairly heavy, but smaller than last year's unusually large supplies. Stocks of peas, snap beans, sweet corn are larger than year ago; supplies of sauerkraut, tomatoes, tomato juice are smaller.

Frozen:

Supplies are fairly heavy, but smaller than a year ago.

Processing:

Processors plan to plant or contract smaller acreage of vegetables for processing this year than last, about 9% less. With average growing conditions, canned vegetable pack for 1958 will be a little smaller than 1957's; frozen pack likely to be near that a year ago.

Potatoes:

Supplies this spring are lighter than a year ago, when they were burdensome. Still, supplies are expected to be adequate to maintain consumption rates of a year ago.

Sweet-

Potatoes:

Supplies available for distribution into mid-1958 are a little smaller than a year ago, and shipments for remainder of marketing season are likely to continue below those of a year ago.

FRUITS:

Fresh:

Supplies will increase seasonally as summer approaches, but spring supplies will continue somewhat smaller than a year ago, with reductions mostly in citrus. Supplies of Florida oranges and grapefruit this spring are much lighter than year ago; supplies of California oranges will continue lighter through early fall. Supplies of fresh lemons adequate for expected needs this spring and summer. Southern peaches have the best May prospects in years: the crop now looks like the largest since 1947, and 44% larger than 1957. For all seasons, strawberry supplies are expected to be almost as large as last year's record crop.

Canned:

Supplies for late spring and early summer (until 1958 packs become available) are a little smaller than heavy stocks this time a year ago. On April 1, stocks of peaches, apricots, plums, apple sauce, citrus juices are smaller; stocks of apples, grapefruit sections, sweet and sour cherries are larger.

Frozen:

Supplies of orange concentrate expected to continue considerably smaller this spring and summer than last. Supplies of strawberries are down, but supplies of cherries, other berries are up, and total supplies of fruits and berries are larger this spring than last.

Dried:

Supplies are smaller than a year ago, but will be adequate to meet demands until new packs become available this summer or early fall.

Melons:

Big increases over last year are expected for spring crops of watermelons and cantaloups, and summer watermelon acreage is expected to be up 9% over last year.

THE  
PLENTIFUL  
FOODS  
PROGRAM:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is supporting these industry campaigns:  
June Dairy Month                      August Sandwich Month  
July Picnic Month                      October Cheese Festival